



ASHEVILLE TRANSIT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Police/Fire Training Room-Municipal Building
June 9, 2010 4:30-6:30

Attending:

Commission Members: Dave Erb, Tom Tomlin, Georgia M. Shannon, Kevin Jenkins,

Staff: Mariate Echeverry, Janet GeorgeMurr

Community members: Tom Herman of NCDOT, David Boshart, Natalie Murdock, FBRMPO

4:30 p.m.: Tom Tomlin opened the meeting in the absence of Paul Van Heden and J Neal Jackson. Dave Erb made the motion to have Tom preside the TC meeting and Georgia second the motion.

Agenda Amendments: None

Explanation of Public Comment Standards and Opportunities:

- Dave Erb read the standards of procedures regarding public comment.

May 12, 2010 Transit Commission Minutes – was reviewed and approved by Transit Commission members after two small corrections.

Welcome Public – Introductions and Pre-Meeting Public Comment

- Tom welcomed the public and requested an introduction of each member of Transit Commission, staff and public.
- Tom Herman, NCDOT
- Dave Boshart
- Natalie Murdock
- Staff and Transit Commission members introduced themselves.

Presentations: No presentation was given today.

NEW BUSINESS

When will new or adjusted routes be implemented?: Mariate stated that she is working on this project, which will be implemented with the marketing aspect. Transit is in the process of obtaining funds from FTA which takes about 4 months for the complete process. Grant application will take approximately 2 months by the end of the year. This is a good time for the grant application b/c Transit will be receiving the hybrid buses in January. Tom stated that the Transit Master Plan (TMP) was approved two years since 2009 and nothing has been implemented. Mariate reminded Tom that Council just approved the funding and we are following the process which takes time. In October, 2009 the TMP was presented to Council and the first changes approved in April, 2010. There was a discussion among the TC members regarding implementing part of the TMP. Mariate emphasized that Transit does not have enough staff to make changes every two months. The new fares were approved by Council on 7/1/10 which was implemented immediately. Mariate continued to say that the impact will be bigger when all of the changes are made at one time rather than in increments. Georgia asked about a Marketing team. Mariate mentioned that when the time comes a TC member will be on the Marketing Committee. Dave stated that TC is a strong advocate in lobbying to Council and Council needs to approve the funds for Sunday service. Mariate stated that TC set the goals in operation for Sunday service. Kevin asked about a yearly review to look at the routes. Mariate stated that Transit will want to have small operational change in looking at the routes, i.e. first of the year in implementing small changes such “tweaking” the routes.

Tom asked if the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) could be stopped now rather than 1/1/11. Mariate reiterated that changes will all be made at the same time when all the marketing material is printed.

- **When will the buses arrive?:** Mariate stated that the buses will arrive in January 2011. Production is scheduled in December and will be driven to Asheville; then the exchange of the fareboxes and designation signs. Mariate will refer to Edna on the timeframe.
- **Is there a way for bus drivers to complain to the TC?** Mariate stated that she cannot answer this question, since the drivers are Union and Edna needs to address it.
 - Kevin asked about Route 2 thru UNC-Asheville. Mariate mentioned that 2 buses are out – 1 on Beaverdam and 1 on UNC-Asheville. Dave asked if the 5 hybrid and 5 diesel buses are being ordered. Mariate stated that the diesel buses had to be cancelled due to a change in the length of the buses and the grant could not be changed from 35ft to 30 ft. bus.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

STAFF UPDATES:

- **ADA:** Mariate informed TC that Transit would like to improve the present Transit ADA eligibility process. The present process is loose in the regulations and would like to put in place some restrictions on the disability fares. Transit is requesting a medical referral or evidence of disability in a form of a notice from agencies, human services and/or physicians.. In requesting a medical statement if temporary or permanent disability, which will save money for Transit. There was a discussion among TC. Mariate indicated that this will be implemented in two months with a public hearing and agencies to comment on application form. To reduce administrative burden, there will be a temporary disability issued with a 6 month pass; and in six months the applicant can reapply with another note from the physician.
- **Bus Color Scheme:** Kevin asked about the new colors of the buses. Mariate will bring the color design at the July TC meeting.
- **Ridership:** TC reviewed the ridership status. Mariate stated that we lost Weaverville route and Route 28 is down in ridership which affected ridership compared to last year. NCDOT has given 1 month extension for Route 28 on the Period of Performance (POP) and 5 more months of funding and which will end 12/31/10. There is a group in place working to redesign route 28. As far as Route 29 with changes to get to WWC transfer to Mountain Mobility. However, it is still questionable with Mountain Mobility who will apply for JARC to obtain funds for Route 28 to continue services since it uses the same corridor to WWC to Black Mountain. Kevin asked if Black Mountain contributes, which they do, per Mariate. Kevin also mentioned that there are plans to build a rail system in Black Mountain in 5 years. Mariate mentioned if Mountain Mobility does not get funding the route most likely will disappear.
- **Public Hearing on Fare Increase:** Mariate stated that no one attended the public meeting. Kevin suggested making a recommendation for the bulletin board at the Transit Center..."If you ride 22 times per month, you will receive a monthly pass." Dave asked about how many passes are issued– Mariate indicated that monthly passes are about 3,000 yearly, 30 for annual passes including TC members. Kevin suggested "buying 9 and get 2 free." Mariate mentioned that last time fares changed, no one attended the public hearing either. Dave mentioned that Asheville fares are the cheapest in the country.
- **Presentation for July:** Mariate stated that NextBus came to TC requesting time with Council. Mariate indicated that the proper place to present is to TC. Kevin suggested stressing NextBus that they would have to go through the purchasing process. Dave mentioned that TC will not be involved. Mariate will ask

NextBus to present in July. Dave stressed to allow only 15 minutes for the presentation. Janet will get in touch with NextBus to present at the TC July meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY:

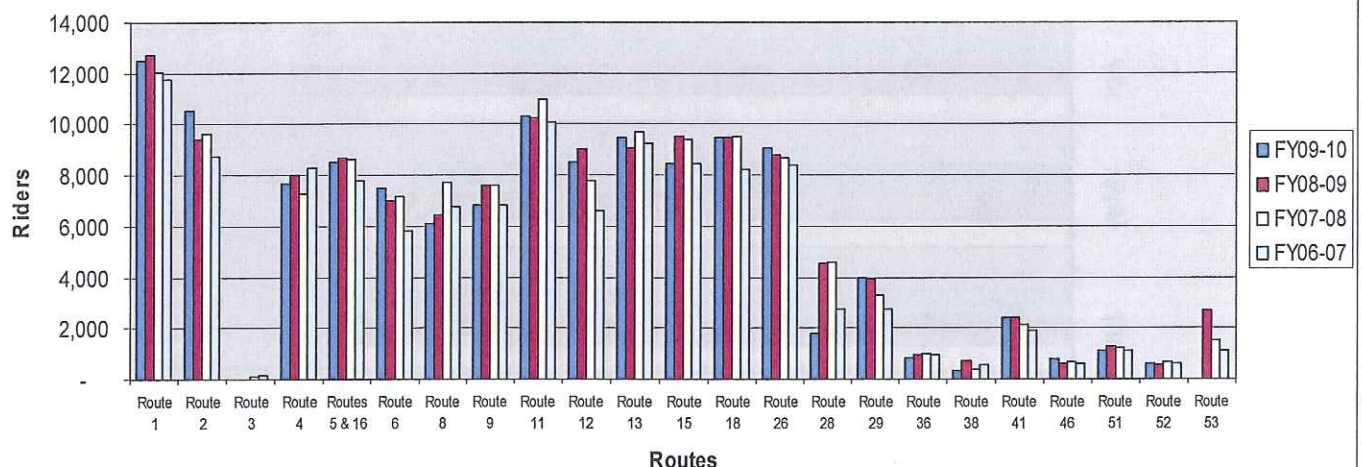
- **Announcements, events, transit commission members involvement related to transit:**
 - Natalie announced MPO meeting on 6/24/10 12:30pm at Land of Sky.
 - Tom Herman of NCDOT announced the wrap-up of the feasible study in July and is back on track to schedule a meeting. Dave announced that there is not meeting scheduled.
 - Mariate indicated that the bus drivers are citizens and they are welcome to attend TC meetings. Dave mentioned that TC welcomes the bus drivers input. Tom suggested that any complaints should go the management company first and to present to TC.
 - Tom Tomlin mentioned that in reviewing the ridership stats over all, compared to Fayetteville, Asheville compares favorably and supports COA system in running well and stable.
 - Dave Boshart – from listening to TC and staff at the meetings on goals to increase ridership and income is a matter of maintaining the way Transit is performing at this time.
 - Dave Erb – Council protected Transit from cuts and that it could be a lot worst.
- **Agenda items for 7/14/10:**
 - Presentation – NextBus
 - Drivers complaining to TC protocol – Edna Johnson
- **Adjourned:**

5:45 pm – Tom moved to adjourn; Dave and Kevin second and all in favor.

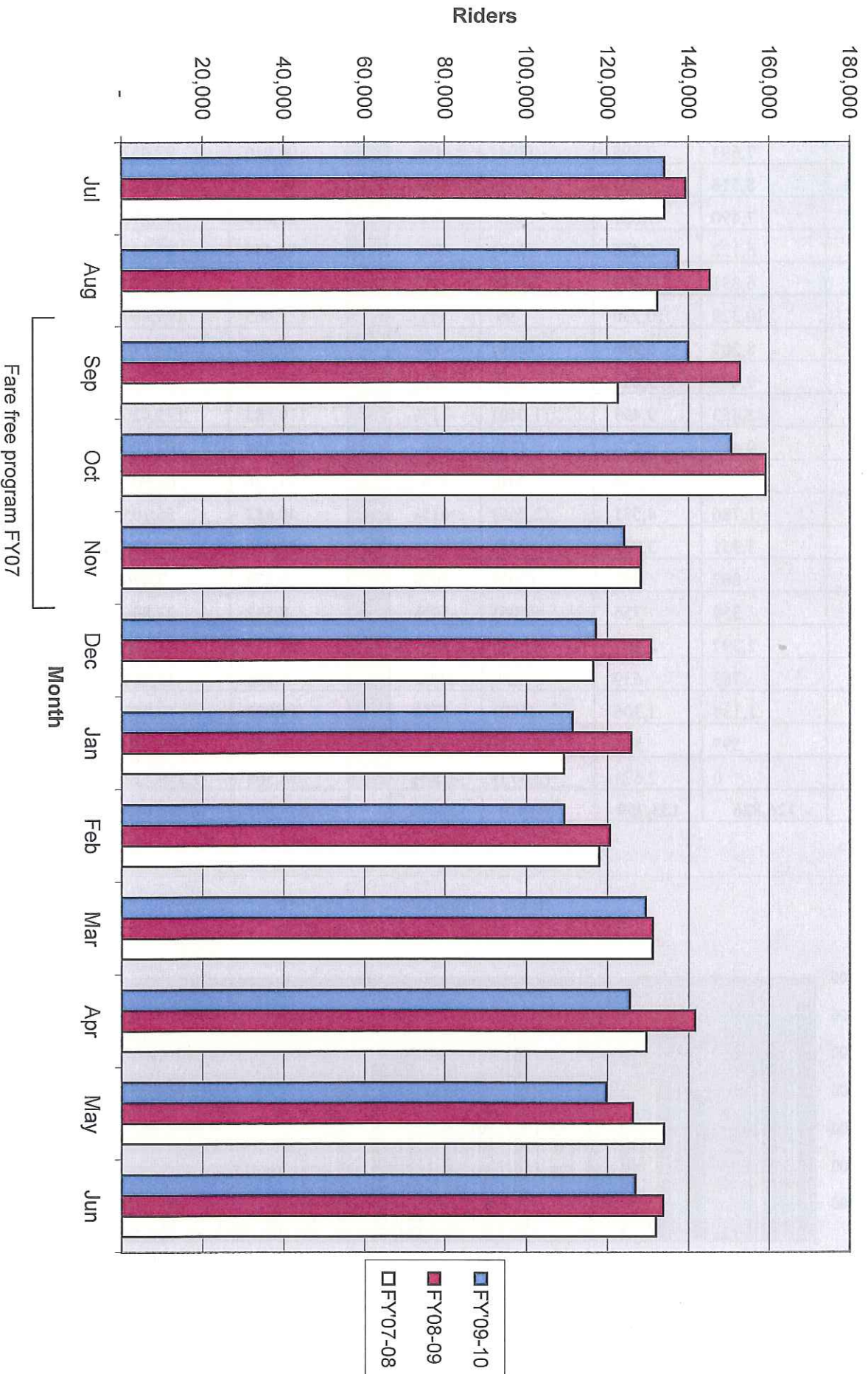
ROUTE RIDERSHIP, JUNE, 2010

Route	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta		This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta
1	12,472	12,719	(247)	-2%		143,458	122,886	20,572	17%
2	10,546	9,418	1,128	12%		115,236	22,328	92,908	416%
3	0	-	-	0%		2,665	78,955	(76,290)	-97%
4	7,694	7,998	(304)	-4%		96,016	97,652	(1,636)	-2%
5 & 16	8,518	8,681	(163)	-2%		96,574	94,122	2,452	3%
6	7,490	7,021	469	7%		84,673	86,870	(2,197)	-3%
8	6,122	6,456	(334)	-5%		74,444	89,153	(14,709)	-16%
9	6,831	7,637	(806)	-11%		84,068	129,508	(45,440)	-35%
11	10,329	10,230	99	1%		127,465	105,869	21,596	20%
12	8,507	8,996	(489)	-5%		98,804	112,175	(13,371)	-12%
13	9,477	9,054	423	5%		107,934	109,127	(1,193)	-1%
15	8,453	9,493	(1,040)	-11%		110,883	123,426	(12,543)	-10%
18	9,449	9,474	(25)	0%		122,254	103,384	18,870	18%
26	9,098	8,788	310	4%		104,726	62,901	41,825	66%
28	1,786	4,551	(2,765)	-61%		40,682	56,105	(15,423)	-27%
29	3,951	3,935	16	0%		58,246	17,436	40,810	234%
36	862	963	(101)	-10%		9,838	8,476	1,362	16%
38	350	756	(406)	-54%		8,532	23,806	(15,274)	-64%
41	2,397	2,387	10	0%		24,745	11,129	13,616	122%
46	763	639	124	19%		7,596	13,854	(6,258)	-45%
51	1,134	1,306	(172)	-13%		14,033	10,242	3,791	37%
52	597	564	33	6%		7,621	25,163	(17,542)	-70%
54	0	2,673	(2,673)	-100%		18,568	1,379,122	(1,360,554)	-99%
	126,826	133,739	(6,913)	-224%		1,559,061	2,883,689	(1,324,628)	-45.9%

Route comparison June FY09-10



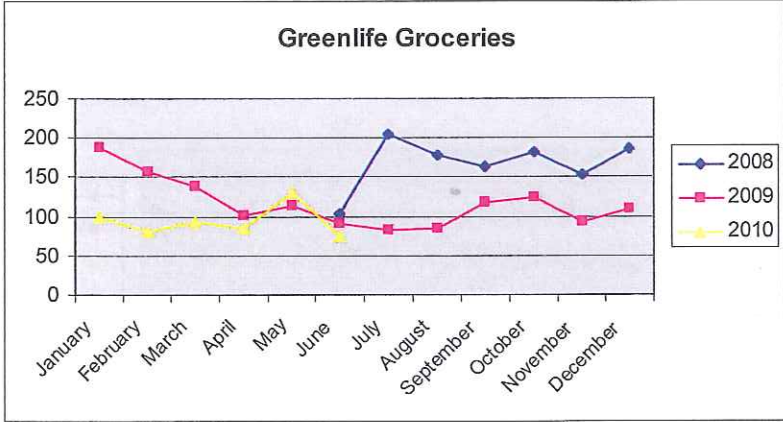
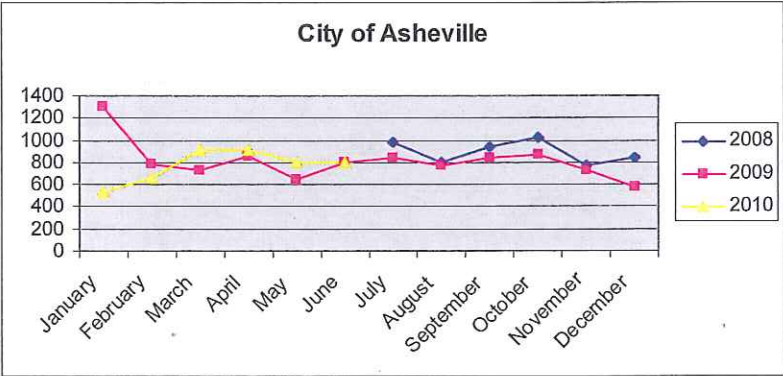
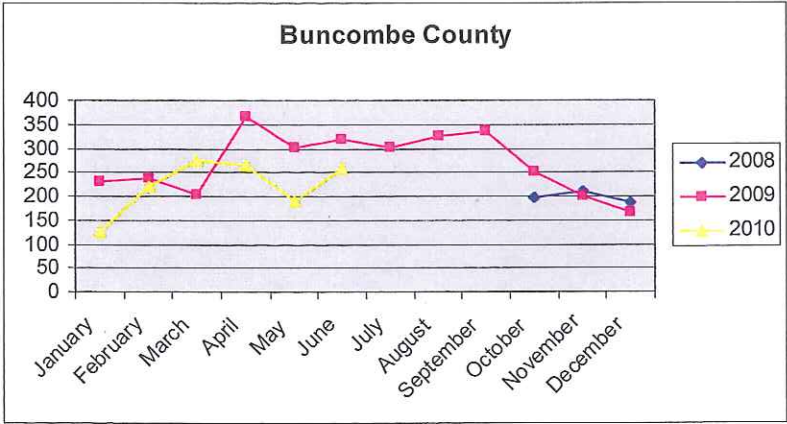
Ridership Comparison



<i>Buncombe County</i>			
	2008	2009	2010
January		231	127
February		236	222
March		204	275
April		366	264
May		302	189
June		319	259
July		301	
August		324	
September		334	
October	195	251	
November	209	199	
December	187	165	
Year Totals	591	3232	1336
Overall Totals	5159		

<i>City of Asheville</i>			
	2008	2009	2010
January		1306	530
February		779	664
March		733	916
April		850	906
May		643	794
June		793	804
July	976	838	
August	797	774	
September	940	844	
October	1018	873	
November	770	735	
December	835	575	
Year Totals	5336	9743	4614
Overall Totals	19693		

<i>Greenlife</i>			
	2008	2009	2010
January		188	100
February		156	80
March		138	94
April		101	85
May		113	131
June	103	90	75
July	205	82	
August	177	84	
September	164	117	
October	181	125	
November	152	93	
December	185	109	
Year Totals	1167	1396	565
Overall Totals	3128		



Grove Park Inn				
	2007	2008	2009	2010
January		1993	1592	913
February		2156	1198	1119
March		2225	1305	1205
April		2128	1386	1268
May		2356	1366	942
June		2298	1509	1610
July		2520	1345	
August		2494	1387	
September		2659	1376	
October		2552	1410	
November	1268	1863	1042	
December	1969	1676	1167	
Year Totals	3237	26920	16083	7057
Overall Totals	53297			

UNCA					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January		2433	3140	4777	2020
February		2860	4041	4562	3346
March		3536	3346	3554	3335
April		3163	3906	3891	3433
May		2010	2870	1803	2248
June		1529	2882	1253	2129
July		1816	2692	1677	
August		3611	5336	3118	
September		4512	6755	3897	
October		4881	6169	3935	
November	1285	3452	4444	3234	
December	1754	2443	3649	2124	
Year Totals	3039	36246	49230	37825	16511
Overall Totals	142851				

